

RECEIVED

0212

SEP 05 2001

14 MS. JONES: Yes. Hello. I'm glad you're

550715

15 still here. It's been a long night.

16 I didn't know before I came here that we were

17 going to be competing with DOE officials and

18 representatives for speaking time, or I might not have

19 come.

20 I'm a retired school teacher with eight years

21 in Lyon County and Clark County. Because -- and I am a

22 retired school teacher at my age because of a

23 disability I contracted while I was teaching in,

24 unbeknownst to me, viral outbreak area in Northern

25 Nevada. Similar to Gulf War illness. It's still going

0213

1 on. It's spread all over the country and all over the

2 world. Before moving to Nevada, I was extremely fit

3 and healthy. And I seldom went to the doctor.

4 My interests in this matter is equal to that

5 of all Nevadans. The question of safety. In 1994, I

6 believe, I took advantage of an invitation-only

7 post-grad course at UNLV. It was free.

8 We had other incentives, as well as the good

9 number of credits if we were chosen to take the course.

550715

10 It seemed to be quite easy to be chosen. I was
11 especially interested, because of the subject matter.
12 Nuclear waste. I had been interested in the nuclear
13 issues since I was a teenager.
14 I wrongly assumed this was a National Science
15 Foundation grant class. As did others that attended.
16 From the first hour, the first day, we elementary,
17 junior high and high school science teachers from all
18 parts of Nevada were immersed in nuclear power issues,
19 lectures and discussions of projects. Everything we
20 heard seemed to be pro-nuclear power, without any
21 lectures with opposing views or data. I was
22 suspicious. By the third day, we finally questioned
23 our UNLV professor about who had underwritten all the
24 costs of this concentrated course. He told us, why,
25 Yucca Mountain, of course. I was shocked. So were
0214

1 other people in the class.

2 Then Yucca Mountain personnel were in our
3 classes lecturing about the safety issues being raised
4 about the proposed site. I asked many, many questions.
5 Several of us grad students voiced a protest over the
6 secrecy of the fact that Yucca Mountain had paid for

550715

7 our classes. About the fourth or fifth day of these
8 day-long classes, we were taken on a field trip to
9 Yucca Mountain. We went through the required
10 orientations, promoting Yucca Mountain as an
11 unquestionably safe site. It was clear for me that we
12 were taking this class for free. Why we were taking
13 this class for free? It was to make us as teachers
14 proponents for Yucca Mountain. We were supposed to
15 take this back to our classrooms and spread the word.
16 Yucca Mountain is safe.
17 We went there, they told us it was, it was
18 like the nuclear testing of, well, above and below
19 ground. Nevadans believed in it, and officials didn't
20 rally against it. Because you told them it was safe.
21 That's why people were sitting on their houses here
22 watching the atomic bombs go off. You told them it was
23 safe. We went through many parts of the Yucca Mountain
24 Project Department, as well as a hike to the top of
25 this long flat hill -- and it isn't a mountain, it's a
0215

1 hill. I would call it. They called it Yucca Mountain.

2 My first view looking out over the test site
3 was the amount of relatively young -- excuse me, I'm

550715

4 getting nervous -- cinder cones or volcanic-looking
5 emissions surrounding the entire site. I knew from
6 watching and reading the news that two prestigious
7 geologists and hydrologists had been fired at the site
8 when their studies concluded the site was not safe for
9 the next 10,000 years. The federal requirement for the
10 site said it had to be.

11 We went into the trench dug to study possible
12 seismic or ground water issues. This was one site that
13 the hydrologists had been fired over. Not being very
14 knowledgeable, but having some geology courses, myself
15 and my fellow students saw the trench and noticed that,
16 yes, there had been an upwelling of water. It was very
17 obvious, even to the untrained eye. There had been an
18 upwelling of water, and it flowed to the surface.

19 MODERATOR BROWN: About a minute.

20 MS. JONES: I am sorry, I will try to get
21 this through.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Keep going.

23 MS. JONES: Anyway, so we were told, no,
24 absolutely we were wrong. We just didn't know. Well,
25 there were lots of scientists among us and they did

0216

550715

1 know. And this hydrologist had been fired because of
2 his opinion. But, oh, no, said our Yucca Mountain
3 personnel, assigned to us. Can't you see that the
4 water seeped down into the earth? No, I couldn't.
5 There was a little vent, and then it spread out. Just
6 like when water runs down the mountain and spread out
7 at the bottom of the mountains. He said -- I remember
8 his exact words.

9 Oh, I spoke to this hydrologist for a long
10 time, not the one that was fired but one that was still
11 working there in the lab. And I said, "Well, how's
12 your ground water testing going? What's it like? Can
13 I see some of the results?" He said, "It's never been
14 tested for radioactive elements." I was rocked back on
15 my heels at this disclosure. I knew prior that
16 radioactive waste would never reach the ground water.
17 They told us it wouldn't reach the ground water. Hmm.
18 This hydrologist that they fired didn't think so.
19 Needless to say that although there was much bragging
20 and boasting about the billion and a half dollars
21 already spent on PR, and that they had 4 billion more
22 to spend, ha, ha, ha, on our bus trip, and I did keep a
23 journal of this class for remembrances, in case my

24 memory failed, because of my disease.

550715

25 One last note, if you please. We learned

0217

1 against -- we learned a great deal about half life of

2 all the nuclear power waste and just how hot it remains

3 for thousands of years. When we saw a film of just how

4 it was going to be stored, we saw that the canisters

5 were going to be stored 16 feet apart from each other.

6 This was very hot nuclear material, 16 feet apart.

7 Casks. They haven't found a material that can hold the

8 radio waste -- radioactive waste that's so high-level.

9 So, I said, "Why are you storing it so close together?"

10 They could not give me an answer. They did not give me

11 an answer.

12 Finally, because of our protests, Chris

13 Brown, the head of Citizen Alert at the time, came in

14 to speak to us about the other side of the issue. He

15 refuted much of what was being taught to us,

16 scientifically, to our entire class. When asked how we

17 could trust DOE after what we knew about Three Mile

18 Island, just one example, the DOE representative

19 actually stated there was never anything in Three Mile

20 Island except a small radiation emission. We all knew

21 that they had critical mass meltdown at Three Mile

550715

22 Island. How can we trust you?